

Dear Madam Chair, School Board Members and Administration,

I am writing in my capacity as SEAC Chair to share my significant concerns with the extreme actions and measures taken by the Department of Pupil Services to undermine the special education community's concerns, as well as the SEAC and the SSS Committee's recommendations on Policy 5310.

The changes recommended to Policy 5310 by the Reed-Smith Law firm completely restricts the collaborative and equitable process outlined in SEAC and the SSS Committee's recommendations allowing IEP amendments without a meeting. LCPS is now proposing changes to the policy that would allow school administration to create amendments, attempt to obtain parent input and **NOT** require the document to be presented to the parent(s)/guardian(s)/adult student in their communication mode as required for informed parent consent and Prior Written Notice per IDEA. SEAC's recommendation for Item 4 was intended to ensure parent(s)/guardian(s) are able to fully understand the amendment document (considering no meeting has occurred) and are able to fully participate discussions relating to the IEP amendment before providing informed consent.

LCPS suggesting that parents complete the ADA access form 5 days in advance of the "event" to provide them access to documents that are required under IDEA is very concerning. There is no meeting, therefore, there is no "event"- only an amended document. Providing documents in a parent's mode of communication as noted above **is required by IDEA before requesting** a parent to provide informed consent. This language aligns with the requirements for the LEA to provide prior written notice in a parent's native language or communication mode.

While LCPS states the county is very focused on providing an equitable education experience to all children, it appears the equity lens is not being applied equally to all groups of students. Clearly the proposed changes were not considered or equitably envisioned. SEAC does not support the proposed changes by Reed-Smith as further detailed in the attached document.

Given the level of confusion over the Prior Written Notice, I have attached a copy of the VDOE Guidance on PWN's with relevant areas highlighted for convenience (pages 1, 2, and 4 have pertinent language).

SEAC stands ready to work collaboratively with LCPS, please let me know if you have any questions or if I can be of further assistance. I fully understand IDEA and IEP language can be very confusing.

Sharon

**Sharon Tropf, Chair**

LCPS Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

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